

U.S. Mushroom Value Lower

Pounds of U.S. mushrooms sold were even with the previous year but down 2 percent from the 2000-01 crop. Sales of the July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003 mushroom crop totaled 844 million pounds. Value of sales for the mushroom crop was \$889 million, down 2 percent from the previous season. Average price was \$1.05 per pound, a decline of 2 cents from 2001-2002. The number of mushroom growers decreased by 8 to 260.

Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 98 percent of the total pounds sold in the U.S. The volume of Agaricus sold was about the same as the previous year at 831 million pounds. The average price of \$1.02 per pound was down 3 cents. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, command a higher price, at \$1.27 per pound, than the rest of the Agaricus mushrooms.

Most Agaricus mushrooms (83 percent) were sold on the fresh market with an average price of \$1.12 per pound. Processing Agaricus mushrooms averaged 56 cents per pound.

The number of Agaricus growers in the U.S. totaled 126. There were 24 growers with sales of 10 million pounds or more. These growers accounted for 61 percent of the U.S. production. Pennsylvania growers had 56 percent of the total sales, and second ranked California contributed 15 percent.

Wisconsin is part of the Central production region, which also includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas. The volume of sales in the Central region declined 1 percent to 103 million pounds. The Central region had the highest price per pound at \$1.45, a jump of 6 cents from the previous year. Total volume of Agaricus sales was \$150 million, up 4 percent.

Sales of Specialty mushrooms - Shitake, Oyster, and other exotic mushrooms - increased 1 percent in value to \$37.7 million. The average price per pound rose 14 cents to \$2.90. Shitake was the most common type with 64 percent of the volume sold. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area.

Mushroom Production, United States

Variety	Volume of sales		Value of sales	
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2001-2002	2002-2003
	1,000 pounds		1,000 dollars	
Agaricus	831,107	831,314	870,573	851,649
Shiitake	8,024	8,250	23,407	25,249
Oyster	4,035	3,404	8,092	6,353
Other	1,424	1,320	5,727	6,074
Total	844,590	844,288	907,799	889,325

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.